

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES IN THE
N. Y. HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY
CONTEST.

The formal presentation of prizes offered by the New York State Single Tax League to pupils of high schools in the State for the best essay on the Philosophy of Henry George as set forth in *Progress and Poverty* took place in a number of cities. Eight of the winning essays were printed in the Nov.-Dec. number of the *REVIEW*.

One of the most interesting of these presentations was that at Ossining, where young Edward O'Toole received a prize of ten dollars from the hands of Hon. Thomas M. Osborne, warden of Sing Sing prison. There were a number of spectators present.

Mr. Osborne said he remembered his wonderful experience years ago when he read Henry George's "Protection and Free Trade," and the privilege which had been accorded him of becoming acquainted with the writings of one whose reasoning was so clear and convincing. He afterward read "Progress and Poverty" upon which young Mr. O'Toole's essay was based. He had been converted to the Single Tax belief by the writings and reasoning of Henry George and believed it to be the only sane and sensible method of taxation. He was surprised that the people had not long ago become disgusted with all of the abominable methods of taxation and turned to the Single Tax methods for relief.

His task was a particularly pleasing one because the young man who was about to receive the prize is the son of one of the prison officers whom Warden Osborne has learned to like and respect during a brief acquaintance. He hoped that the son inherited the parental virtues.

Young Mr. O'Toole about a year ago won a prize for an essay on Christopher Columbus, offered by the Knights of Columbus. The *Democratic Register* of Ossining reprinted Mr. O'Toole's winning essay from the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW*.

Master Samuel Rabinowitz, of the Morris High School in the Bronx, received the prize of ten dollars from Register Edward Polak, who in the course of a brief address said:

"The philosophy of which he has partaken will have a great influence on his life as it has influenced the lives of others. No man can read the works of Henry George without awaking within him thoughts and emotions which will make of him a better, wiser and juster man. Not only that, he will be better able to know the relations of himself to his fellows and the natural laws which govern the universe. Master Rabinowitz, in presenting this prize on behalf of the New York State Single Tax League, I feel sure that the League is well satisfied with your essay, for it is a splendid indication of the research and thought you have given to a philosophy which some day must be accepted by society if society is to endure. In future years as you go through life you will have to bear the vicissitudes that go to make up life's burden, but you will have supreme consolation in the fact that whatever may come, the knowledge gained by having read the philosophy of Henry George will guide you safely."

The presentation of the second prize of \$30 to Miss Eleanor E. Dunn was made by Hon. A. M. Sperry of Albany. The *Knickerbocker Press*, of that city, gave a good report of the event, and also of the remarks of Mr. Sperry. Miss Dunn is only eighteen years of age and has won a number of prizes in essay contests, one on "Nathan Hale and Major Andre," and another offered by the State College for Teachers on the subject of "The Influence of Shakespeare's Environment on his Writings."

Hon. John J. Murphy, Tenement House Commissioner of the City of New York, made the presentation to young Francis Thornton Kimball, winner of the third prize, at the Polytechnic Preparatory School, in Brooklyn, and to young Mr. Lapolla, winner of one of the ten dollar prizes at the DeWitt Clinton High School, this city. Mr. Lapolla has become a pupil at Columbia College since writing the essay.

Mr. James P. Kohler, of Brooklyn, made the presentation to Malcolm F. Orton, winner of the first prize and pupil at the Newtown High School, Elmhurst, L. I. The school room was filled with pupils and their parents, and Mr. Kohler is confident that he made many converts in the course of his

speech of presentation. The audience seemed particularly enthusiastic over Mr. Kohler's suggestion that political economy should be taught in the public schools.

Mr. E. C. Clark, of Cleveland, N. Y., made the address of presentation to Weber App, of the Shortsville, N. Y. High School, winner of one of the ten dollar prizes.

To Miss Marion McNeil Knowles, of the Lockport, N. Y. High School, John McF. Howie, of Buffalo, made the presentation, and Hon. Robert Baker acted in a like capacity at the Boys High School, Marcy Ave. Brooklyn, where another of the prize winners, W. Stull Holt, son of Byron W. Holt, attends.

To Hon. A. M. Sperry, who presented the prize to Miss Dunn, at Albany, is due the thanks of the League for performing the same service at Schuylerville High School where Miss Helen Bullard was notified that she had been selected as one of the prize winners.

The eight winning essays that were published in the last number of the REVIEW can be had in pamphlet form by addressing the League at 68 William Street, this city. It is published at ten cents a copy.

Very interesting are some of the letters received from some of the contestants. Young Mr. Rabinowitz writes: "I think that the New York State Single Tax League could in no better and effective way propagate the great ideas embodied in Henry George's philosophy. May I suggest that such contests be held for college students. It would acquaint the intelligent youth of the country with the great reform that the Single Tax proposes."

Young Weber App writes that while appreciating the monetary reward he esteems it a greater return that he has been permitted to become acquainted with the works of Henry George.

It is especially gratifying that many of the high school principals announced their willingness to give hearings to any representative of the New York State Single Tax League who might desire to address the school in the near future. Mr. James R. Brown, who has begun his tour of the State for the League, will avail himself of these many invitations.

DEBATE BETWEEN LOUIS F. POST AND PROF. E. R. A. SELIGMAN.

In the Horace Mann Hall, of Columbia University, on the evening of Dec. 9, Louis F. Post and Prof. E. R. A. Seligman debated before a large audience the question, "Is the Single Tax desirable?"

Mr. Post, who opened for the affirmative, began by saying that the taxation phase of the Single Tax interested him only incidentally. He doubted whether there was anything that might be called a science of taxation. The Single Tax was only the method of accomplishing justice and fair play. If there was a method of doing the same thing in another and better way Single Taxers would be willing to drop their present method.

Mr. Post here illustrated his point by instancing what follows the building of good roads. Recent investigations of the Dept. of Agriculture has revealed how enormously the building of good roads add to land values. One or two instances come to my mind. The creation of a road in Florida added twenty dollars an acre to land adjoining, and even the land further back increased ten dollars an acre. Now note what this implies. The owners of these lands get twenty dollars more an acre without raising a finger. If the department had pursued its investigations further it would have discovered that not alone the land along the highway, but land further back, farm lands remotely situated, and building lots of cities near at hand, had all increased by reason of these public works. And what is true of this kind of improvement is true of all public improvements. It is not necessary for me to point this out to you. You all know it. Above all, every real estate agent knows it. He knows it until you talk Single Tax, and then he doesn't know anything about it. Mr. Post closed with a statement of the Single Tax, insisting that there was no other just method of public revenue save the taking of what is publicly created for common use.

Prof. Seligman said that twenty years ago he had debated the Single Tax with Henry George. Ever since then he had